

COMMUNITY

AALGA plans Pride Picnic for people of color over Labor Day

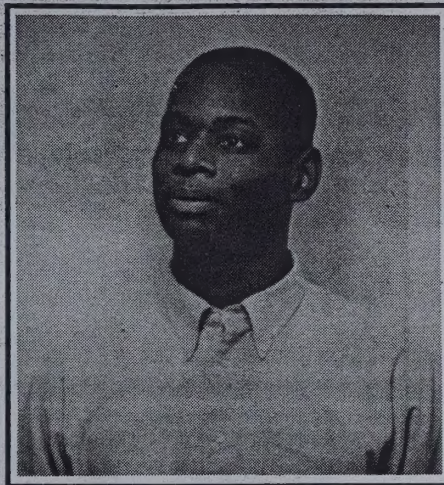
Labor Day weekend in Atlanta usually pulls gays and lesbians of color into town, on the streets, in the clubs and throughout the parks. And two new 1992 festivities promise to lend more focus to the jubilee.

On Saturday, September 5, the African American Lesbian/Gay Alliance (AALGA) will sponsor its first "In The Life: People of Color Pride Picnic" in Piedmont Park. Service organizations such as Hospitality Atlanta and New York's GMAD (Gay Men of African Descent) were invited to join AALGA and party with new and old friends and disseminate their information throughout the crowd.

On the following Tuesday, September 8, AALGA's PR person, Patrick Bell, will facilitate a roundtable discussion concerning younger gays and lesbians. This meeting will provide a long overdue forum for our young to speak for themselves about themselves and their issues. Bell anticipates that both events will foster some serious discourse among those who've come primarily to have a good time.

"We chose that name ['In the Life'] because the 'g' and 'l' words tend to scare black folks away," Bell explains. "People of color who are lesbian, gay or bi and others who are supportive are welcome, too."

AALGA's roundtable discussion on Sept. 8 will take place at Buckhead Library. "We've invited young people who've identified themselves as gay to speak among each other and to those outside their age group who will listen," Bell explained. "I tend to



hear more from middle-aged people about what we need to do to save the young from HIV-infection or killing themselves. I've yet to hear first person from these young adults."

AALGA has a six-year history of bridging gaps and providing comprehensive services for the community. Unlike most groups of its kind, AALGA retains a co-gender membership and is equally representative of the lesbian sector.

While AALGA may be considered politically assertive, it eschews the confrontational tactics of contemporary gay activism. "Black people regardless of sexual preference are first concerned with survival, including economic survival," Bell explained. "Many have families who don't know about their lives and don't feel it's worth risking that support or their jobs to make a political statement."

For information regarding AALGA and these events, contact Bell at (404) 458-3003.

CRAIG WASHINGTON

Pictured: Patrick Bell

